

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 March 2005 (24.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/025728 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

B29B 9/00

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2004/005412

(22) International Filing Date: 24 February 2004 (24.02.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/449,740 24 February 2003 (24.02.2003) US

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
13 October 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/025728 A3

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENHANCED SIZE REDUCTION OF PARTICLES

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides methods and apparatus for producing particles via supercritical fluid processing. In one embodiment, the method includes expanding a supercritical fluid plasticized melt across a pressure drop to form solid composite particles that are simultaneously dispersed, foamed and cooled, and milling the solid particles produced to achieve the desired size distribution. In another embodiment, a pressure vessel containing a supercritical fluid plasticized melt is depressurized to form a cooled solid porous mass, which is then milled to obtain solid composite particles.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/05412

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B29B 9/00
US CL : 264/5

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 264/5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,716,558 (Nielsen et al.) 10 February 1998 (10.02.1998), entire patent.	1-19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 July 2005 (22.07.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 AUG 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-8300

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/05412

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

Inventor search.

EAST - keywords = load stock, particle, method, supercritical, melt, polysaccharide, polyester, polyether, polyanhydride, polyglycolide, polylactic, polycaprolactone, polyethylene glycol, polypeptide, carbon dioxide, water, nitrous oxide, dimethylether, alkane, alkene, alcohol, ethane, propane, fluoroform, chlorotrifluoromethane, chlorodifluoromethane, propylene, ammonia